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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [OTRA](#) [OVIP](#) [KSEP](#) [UNGA](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: FRANCE: 61ST UNGA: HIGH-LEVEL ATTENDANCE AND
REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS

REF: A. STATE 112656
[1](#)B. PARIS 5157

This supplements our interim report (ref B) on GOF UNGA attendance.

[1](#)A. Attendance of the Head of State:

- Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic.
- Arrival and departure dates are uncertain, but MFA on August 21 reports he will probably leave after the second day of the UNGA. He plans to give France's address.
- Presence of spouse (Bernadette): Undetermined, but likely.
- President Chirac's English is good, but he usually prefers the presence of an interpreter in formal meetings.

[1](#)B. Attendance of the Head of Government: MFA reports no present plan for PM Dominique de Villepin to attend.

[1](#)C. Attendance of the Foreign Minister:

- Philippe Douste-Blazy, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- MFA reports that FM Douste-Blazy will attend the UNGA and will head France's delegation once President Chirac leaves.
- Arrival and departure dates are uncertain, according to the MFA.
- Presence of spouse: Undetermined (but unlikely, in our view, based on recent practice).
- FM Douste-Blazy speaks some English but requires an interpreter at formal meetings.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm>

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